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los angeles valley college's

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

lavalleystar.com | May 19, 2010 | Volume 72 Issue 9

ASU RESOLUTION ON ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW

ASU will take stance toward Arizona's bills through a drafted resolution supporting a boycott.

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

Valley's Associated Student Union might follow the example of the Los Angeles City Council by voting on a resolution calling for a student boycott of all business and travel to Arizona until SB1070 and HB 2281 are repealed.

"It is important for the ASU to take a stance on this issue," said ASU Vice President Ronnie Kawamara.

Kawamara authored the resolution, which is awaiting approval by the executive council.

Arizona's controversial SB1070 passed in April. According to the resolution, the bill requires police to stop and verify the citizenship of anyone they suspect of being illegal. Kawamara is concerned people with brown skin will be unfairly targeted, and the bill will open the "legislative door to racism, intolerance, hate, discrimination and violence."

Kawamara quoted Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham City Jail" by saying, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"We don't want to see Arizona turned into a police state …" said Kawamara, "where if you forget your papers you can be detained indefinitely."

HB2281 is a bill that bans K-12 classes that "promote resentment" towards racial groups, or seeks to overthrow the United States government. Some fear this could create a false pretext and lead to the removal of all ethnic studies. The ASU resolution states that HB2281 will censor the information available to students in Arizona and will wipe out Indigenous, Chicano, and African-American histories.

"We all know these histories are not in the general curriculum," said Kawamara in reference to ethnic studies. "We need them in college and all public schools."

Several colleges in California were forced to cut ethnic studies programs due to budget problems.

"It's bad enough in Arizona and now you can't even learn about your history," said Kawamara, "We don't want a state to tell a school they can't teach the history of certain ethnicities."

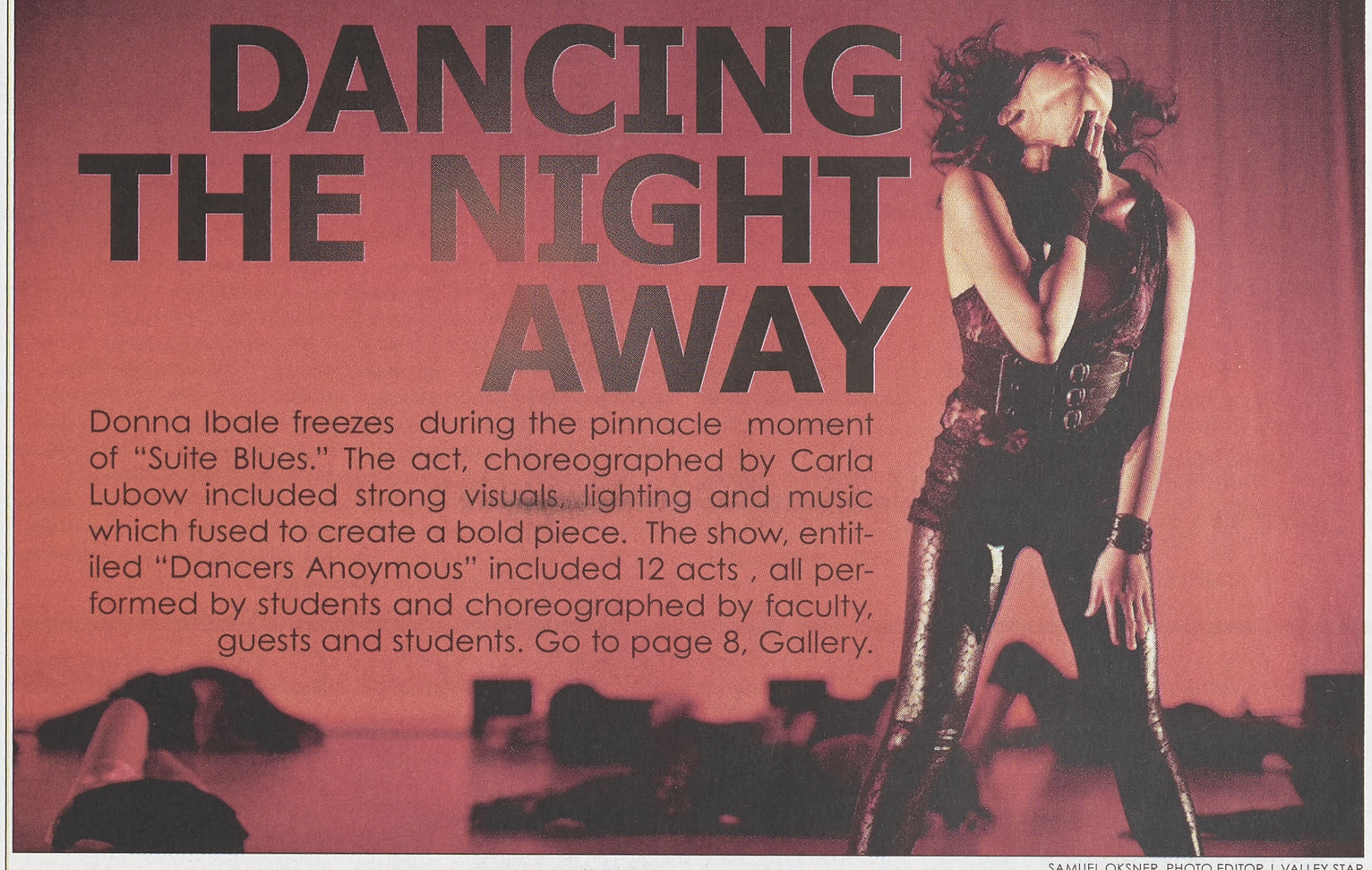
Kawamara feels laws like the ones in Arizona are a reaction to the failure of the federal government to reform immigration, which is a sentiment shared by many on his side of the issue. He is a supporter of the "Dream Act" which would grant citizenship to children who have lived in America their whole lives illegally as long as they graduate from college or join the military, because these people never had a choice to come to America with their parents and are thoroughly "Americanized."

"If they pay taxes they should get back in line. Then we need to secure our borders," said Kawamara. "Unless we address all these issues it won't change."

The resolution supports the boycott of Arizona until "the right of due process and freedom of speech and information" are restored.

To read more on the ASU Resolution, visit www.lavalleystar.com for the complete story.

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY



Donna Ibale freezes during the pinnacle moment of "Suite Blues." The act, choreographed by Carla Lubow included strong visuals, lighting and music which fused to create a bold piece. The show, entitiled "Dancers Anoymous" included 12 acts , all performed by students and choreographed by faculty, guests and students. Go to page 8, Gallery.

SAMUEL OKSNER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

A LIFE FOREVER CHANGED

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Lisa Myers is living proof that a positive attitude can't be beat, not even by multiple sclerosis. "My mother said to me 'If anyone can overcome this, you can overcome this. You have a positive attitude,'" said Myers, who was diagnosed with a nervous system disorder called multiple sclerosis almost 25 years ago.

At 24, newlywed Lisa Myers was on her honeymoon when she was suddenly crippled by MS. Diagnosed shortly after returning from their Vegas honeymoon, the newlywed couple was faced with the biggest question of their lives together: what to do next.

"I didn't know what was ahead of me. We had been married only a few weeks, so I told my husband move on, to find someone else," said Myers. "But he wanted to stay anyway. I'm blessed to have a supportive husband."

In 1985 there were no medications to help treat the debilitating disorder and limited knowledge of how to keep symptoms under control. The only advice Lisa was given by doctors was to "try and manage the best you can." With a positive attitude and with hope that there would one day be a treatment or even a cure, Lisa kept her MS symptoms at bay.

"I thought I could not have kids, but the neurologist said 'yes,'" said Myers, mother of two.

For Lisa Myers, the hardest part of having MS with children was helping them conceptualize the illness without scaring them. "I had to tell them 'mommy has an illness, bad things happen that you can't avoid, you just need to make the best of them.'"

Lisa, her children and family participate in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's MS Walk every year. Lisa's mother, Carole Weston who is an Executive Administration Assistant at Valley has walked beside her for 24 years. The MS Walk, which raised over $140 million last year, uses 77 percent of its profits to fund research and provide help to MS sufferers.

Laughing, Lisa said, "I can't bowl, but that's OK 'cause I didn't do it often anyway."

Though Lisa hasn't experienced an MS exasperation in 17 years and now takes daily injections in order to combat the illness, she still has complications. She has a bad sense of balance, and uneven gait. Lisa needs to make sure she has two feet on the ground at all times, but she's thankful that she has little trouble with walking or fatigue, which is a common ailment for people with MS.

"I am very, very blessed. I think the most important thing for people with MS to know is that there's hope," she said. "There's always hope."

Spring Renaissance at Valley

Students and community celebrated the arts with workshops, contests, and performances.

GUADALUPE GONZÁLEZ
STAFF WRITER

The sun was shining and the breeze was blowing as Valley College celebrated its arts and clubs at the annual International Arts Festival May 12 in the arts district in Monarch Square where students performed, recited poetry, danced, and displayed their art.

The event, which was sponsored by the Arts Club and the Associated Student Union, was open to the public and followed the trend of celebrating the arts in May. Some clubs participated in the event by following the theme of "utopia," such as the performance, "Communion," by the Club Appreciation Club in which statues came to life and expressed a sense of community. Other clubs used the opportunity to express otherwise like the Political Action Coalition who had a display of tombstones representing the "death of education."

"It's pretty cool," said Moorpark College student Benny Vasquez about the festival. "I like the vibe." He came with a dancing crew who went to check out the event. He has attended other art shows, "but none with as much mixed art," he claimed.

The festival showcased 2D, 3D, and performed art, as well as workshops by the Southern California Handweavers' Guild and artist Michael Neiter, who uses spray paint, cardboard, and magazine paper instead of conventional art tools. Students also voted for their favorite art piece in the art contest, and the winners were announced at the conclusion of the festival.

Karen Mazhinyan won first place for his 2D Grecian drawing of a woman dressed in drapery titled "Dream Lady," and was awarded a $300 scholarship. Zhenya Hovhanhisyan won second place for her untitled chalk drawing that represents every man, and Amber Milliken won third place for her life-sized 3D art piece made up of bottle caps, wires, and fence pieces; they were awarded $200 and $100 scholarships, respectively. All other participants in the contest received a certificate of recognition.

"It's nice to see so many students involved in something," said Kira Palmer, accounting student at Valley, while sitting on the lawn soaking up the sun, and like other students, enjoying the art.

VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

ART FEST - Ruban Rouge dance group performs "Community" for last Wednesday's Arts Festival.

ASU NEWS

Healing the "Gente y Tierra"

La Raza will attend a MEChA conference in Seattle to learn how to save ethnic studies programs and bring back that knowledge to Valley, despite missing out on ASU funding.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

"Birth Control Pill"

Examining the impact the pill has had on American culture.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Photos of the Week: Farmers Market

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

THE LOW DOWN....

WALK THE WALK, TALK THE TALK

It's about keeping hope alive.

CRISTINA SERRATO

The ability to walk and talk can be considered a blessing, especially by those who suffer from multiple sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic and debilitating autoimmune disease, which attacks the nervous system by causing bodily exasperations. The most common symptoms of MS are numbness, fatigue, loss of balance, dizziness, bowel issues and sexual dysfunction, although there are more severe symptoms such as blindness and seizures as well.

According to the National MS Society, scientists are unsure why some people get MS, but they have found that many factors such as race, sex, genetics, and environment are involved. A woman is twice as likely to get MS than a man, Caucasians are twice as likely to get MS than any other race and most people with MS live in the Northern Hemisphere while 200 people are diagnosed with MS every week in the United States.

"I'm eager to do the MS Walk every year because all of the money goes to research," said Carole Weston, Valley College executive administration assistant. "I appreciate very much all the people on the college campus who have supported me over the years."

Established in 1989 as the only simultaneous national fundraising

|See **COLUMN**, Page 2|

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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A DAY OF PLAY AT VALLEY COLLEGE

Annabelle's play date offered fun in the sun for children and their families on May 15 at Valley College.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

A diverse group of children, adolescents and adults joined together on Saturday at Valley College from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. celebrating the free and fun 13th annual "Annabelle's Play Date" hosted by the Child Care Resource Center.

The event attracted a swarm of people to Monarch Square by providing a variety of activities, which encourage children to learn through play.

"It was a lot of fun, and more than we expected," stated Molly Barney, a child development major at Valley.

Many kids ran wild and free with painted faces, hair, and creative masks made while attending the event. Others simply enjoyed the beautiful, very hot Saturday in the shade while watching the Aztec dancers at a distance.

The "Copali-Copili" dance group was dressed beautifully in costumes with bright red colors symbolizing sacrifice for children as they played instruments and performed traditional Atztec dances. Milagros Rodriguez, a unique dancer and coordinator of the dance group's visit, performed "Thonanzin," a women's dance dedicated to the children. Later volunteers were asked to perform in the friendship dance with the group while others danced in the crowd. The group informed everyone watching they were proud university graduates, including a college student. They also stressed and encouraged education.

Other popular activities ranged from arts and crafts, reading and games. A mobile marine lab stand offered the community hands-on experience with starfish and hermit crabs. The reptile center included turtles, snakes, and iguanas.

Books Medtronic had a stand set up offering free books for preschool children up to high school students.

"Many people donate books to us and we donate them to the community," stated Myloan Le.

GRETTEL CORTES, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
ANNABELLE'S DANCE - Aztec dancers perform for children and parents during Annebelle's play date hosted at Valley College last Saturday.

The play date is held every year in honor of Annabelle Godwin, a passionate child development professor and preschool director. Annabelle dedicated more than 40 years to her profession and has been recognized as a well known past president for the CCRC board of directors.

"We enjoyed it a lot. It was very hot but, very good for the kids," stated Margarita Levk, a community member.

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

event, Walk MS attracted 42,000 participants at 42 sites to raise $4 million. Since 1989, the event has grown to attract over 200,000 walkers in nearly 600 locations covering all 50 states, and in 2009 raised over $46 million for the MS cause. Walk MS is organized by the National MS Society, who's founder Sylvia Lawry also forced congress to develop the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, which is now the leading supporter of biomedical research on disorders of the brain and nervous system.

"While there's no cure for MS yet, we have broken so much new ground in a very short time and we will not stop until we cross the finish line and find a cure for MS," said Nancy Davis, MS sufferer and founder of the Nancy Davis Foundation for MS who for the past 17 years has held en event called the "Race to Erase MS."

The event, unlike Walk MS, is very high profile and consists of silent auctions, celebrity performances and appearances, and each ticket to the event costs at least $1,000. However pricey, 100 percent of the proceeds go to the Nancy Davis Center Without Walls Program, which is a program dedicated to MS research and utilizes seven of the top MS institutions in the US who have had a large hand in developing all of the Food and Drug Administration-approved medicines for MS.

While NINDS is a governement sanctioned program, the National MS Society is the oldest and the Nancy Davis Foundation is possibly the most high profile, they are all working together to find a cure for MS.

"For the first time in history, we have the scientific tools in hand to find the answers to MS," said Dr. Stephen Hauser, a leading MS researcher at the University of California at San Francisco.

Valley College First To Host District Philosophy Conference

First annual philosophy conference met with positive results.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's philosophy and economics department hosted the first of what is to be an annual philosophy conference to an audience of students, faculty and staff from the Los Angeles Community College District in Monarch Hall's Fireside Room Saturday.

The conference was organized by instructors Zack Knorr and Chris Pallotti of Valley to give students an opportunity to share their work in philosophy with students from around the district.

"These events are very important for our campus," said Knorr. "They give students a chance to come together and develop their thoughts and ideas. They help to create an important sense of campus community that is vital to the college experience."

The crowd of nearly 80 people was double what was expected. Lectures were heard on everything from ethics and politics, to perspectivism and logic. Keynote speaker Harold Ravitch, a professor at Valley for 30 years, gave a presentation on Aristotle. Other speakers at the event included instructor George Lujan, and students including John Henry Evans.

"Philosophy is kind of a lost art," said Evans. "So it's good that people are getting together to discuss these topics. Philosophy is pursuit of wisdom."

Using people behind the 9/11 Truth movement as an example, Evans discussed what he called the "true believers," or people who blindly believe in a cause or mass movement without questioning the logical merit of such a cause. The 9/11 Truth movement believes there was a domestic conspiracy behind the World Trade Center attacks in 2001.

Attendees of the event were treated with a continental breakfast and a lunch that included pizza and sandwiches. It was an open forum as audience members were able to ask questions of speakers and raise ideas on lecture topics.

"We think that this is a very exciting event," said Knorr. "I'm really proud of the great papers that we've received from our students at Valley."

The event is planned to be held every year. Next year's conference has not been planned yet.

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BATTLE OF THE AGES EMERGES BETWEEN VALLEY STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOMS

Younger students are not developed enough to keep up with the 53 percent of college students age 22 and older.

KELLY DAVIS
OPINION EDITOR

Whether they are there to pursue personal enrichment, increased earning potential, or career transitions, the Association for Nontraditional Students in Higher Education reports that students over age 25 make up 47 percent of student populations on many of today's college campuses and those adult students certainly don't relish the disruptions of immature, fresh-out-of-high-school teenagers who are unable or unwilling to grow up and face becoming adults.

While adult students are often struggling to balance issues such as work schedules, transportation, marriage and babysitting, teenage students are struggling to adapt to a lack of structure in the classrooms, time management, social responsibility, and maintaining focus in an environment much more relaxed and dependent on self motivation.

Most community colleges allow concurrent enrollment of high school students age 14 and older. However, the percentage of community college students enrolled that are over 22 years old is 53 percent, which makes for an even wider gap in age and maturity within college classrooms. Many adult students feel that gap and tend to doubt the capabilities of younger students to keep up with college level curriculum.

"Some high school students can handle college classes. But I think their demeanor as high school kids, as teenagers, I don't think it's conducive to a college setting," said Liza DelMundo, a 35-year-old Valley student. Andrea LaRosa, 31, agrees that many younger students aren't advanced enough to keep up in a college environment. "Their brain is not developed enough," said LaRosa. "It's a proven fact that the brain doesn't develop reasoning skills until 25."

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, maturation of cognitive processing and other "executive" functions of the brain occur in young adulthood, between the ages of 23 and 30. Adults who have invested hard-earned money and valuable time into their education can't afford to have class constantly disrupted by the childish mind of an immature teenager.

This is college, where students pave the paths of their adult lives. For those of you teenagers that don't quite comprehend that there is more to life than what new video game just came out or who just asked you out on a date, it's time to put on your big kid pants and grow up. But for those of you teenagers with a maturity level beyond your years, thank you. Everyone, including your professors, appreciates your ability to focus, prioritize and comprehend course material. You are doing yourself, and the rest of us, a huge favor.

As more students are returning to finish their education, feelings of superiority conflict in the classroom.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

In the endless amounts of classes I have taken in the past few semesters, I as a 23-year old Valley College student have often run into a sometimes disturbing counterpart: the older student.

Laboring through final exams and lengthy classes, unkind words, to say the least, can be heard throughout the classrooms regarding the professors who make their living teaching at the community level, and balancing the diverse range of new and older students. This is not to say all "older students" are rude and disrespectful, but there is undoubtedly a superiority complex that can often be seen toward the younger ones.

"My experience has been quite different," Valley Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo said. "I find that older students feel like they are at a disadvantage to younger students. I am not aware of conflicts. Many older students have multiple responsibilities pulling on them, children, jobs, other family members needing their attention.

Though it is true that the elder students have several other obligations, responsibilities and concerns, including their dentures and Rogaine, the younger ones do too. Students fresh out of high school, believe it or not, also work full time jobs, often have kids, and take a maximum amount of credits.

Let's not discredit the seriousness and engagement the older students display. They are usually the hardest working students on campus and for good reason: they can't miss their opportunity to graduate—their clock is ticking.

Many times the younger, more immature individuals spread across the campus show disrespect, drop more frequently, and spend more time on their phone than they do on their homework. But hear this older students: you were once their age, and made the same mistakes.

"He always talks over the teacher," Valley Student Jen Romango said of an older student in one of her classes. "If you really have that big of an opinion maybe you should wait until after class to tell people about it and not take time out of my (class time)."

For whatever reason the—to use a more politically correct version of "older"—wiser students on campus have returned, be it, the economy, hopes of a promotion, or just a further understanding of topics, I as a younger student envy your dedication. But as is America, the classroom should serve as a ground where all are equal, and all are given the mutual respect they deserve, especially the professor who assigns your grade … no matter what your age.

THE SIMPLE TRUTH…

POLICE AND CAMERAS DON'T MIX

Reality television … ruining lives one day at a time.

JAMIE NORRIED

Anyone can have a reality show nowadays, even police, but these shows not only ruin lives, they possibly aid in ending them.

We can all think of at least one marriage or career that's been destroyed by realty TV stardom. But we all love "Cops," which has been one of America's favorites for decades. While the show is unscripted, police officers may be tempted to add drama in front of the camera.

Some debate this is the case involving the reality TV show, "The First 48," and the Detroit Police Department. Reality show cameras are permitted to follow detectives during the critical first 48 hours of investigations, with the idea that the show will portray police in a good light. Viewers get a behind-the-scenes look at real-life crime scenes, autopsies, forensic processing, and interrogations.

On Sunday May 16, the Detroit Police Special Response Team, in search of a murder suspect, threw a deafening 'flash bang' device into the home of Charles Jones, where he was with his mother and 7-year-old daughter, Aiyana. During the melee that ensued, an officer's gun went off, fatally shooting little Aiyana in the neck. Police weren't even at the correct home of the suspect.

The victim's family attorney, Karri Mitchell, claims the presence of cameras is to blame, stating the police "were excited they were on TV … They didn't have to throw a grenade through the front window when they knew there were children in there."

Assistant Police Chief Ralph Godbee said in a statement, "We know that no words can do anything to take away the pain you are feeling at this time."

No amount of money can either, but I hope they sue the uniforms off DPD. If these careless police departments had to pay millions of dollars for every "accident," perhaps they'd stop making these asinine mistakes.

The show, however, can't be held solely responsible for this incident. These "accidental deaths" by police departments are disgusting and they happen all the time. If they're going to add the attention of cameras into the equation, officers should be trained to maintain their composure while on screen.

It's an entertaining and informative show, but when this type of theater affects the lives of innocent citizens, it's time to close the curtain.

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Free Speech Gets Gagged

Speech is free in the United States as long as it doesn't bother anyone.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAFF WRITER

Thomas Jefferson said that the first amendment guards "… in the same sentence and under the same words, the freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press; insomuch that whatever violates either throws down the sanctuary which covers the others."

Basically, without free speech we can't have freedom of religion or the press. Without free speech, democracy doesn't work. Free speech is too important to be taken for granted, yet it seems as though it is becoming a popular idea to do so.

"Muzzle" awards are given out every year to the top suppressors of free speech by The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression. Most years the list of 10 includes individuals, companies, and schools. This year all 10 included elected officials or some form of government agency. Come on people, we can't go around electing officials who aim to kill democracy and take our voice away.

One of the muzzle winners was the Oklahoma Tax Commission who denied a man's request to have "IM GAY" as his personalized license plate on his car. Maybe in Oklahoma this qualifies as a safety risk or offensive language to the general public, but that is why we have police. People say and do stupid things that lead to violence, and we pay hard-earned tax dollars to police agencies to keep the peace so that we can be stupid.

The Texas State Legislature received a muzzle for denying motion picture production company tax breaks if their movies portray Texas in a negative light. Not that any of us expect much tolerance from Texas, but this is supposed to be America. We are allowed to tell the world that Texans are a bunch of hicks, whether it's true or not, and they can say whatever they please about Californians.

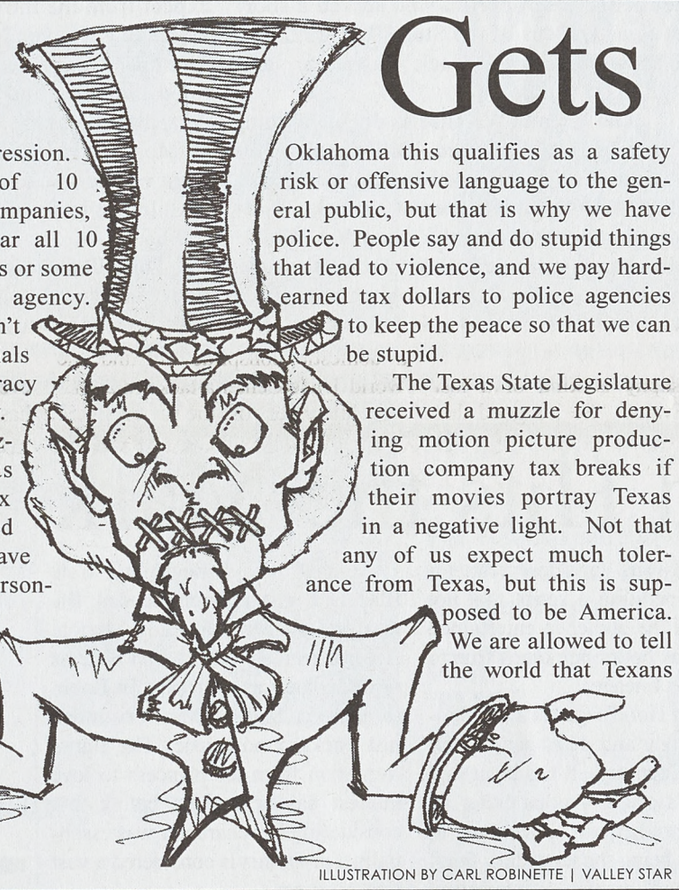


ILLUSTRATION BY CARL ROBINETTE | VALLEY STAR

Let's not forget the unfortunate, but seriously annoying, Hare Krishna, who recently lost a battle to regain the right to solicit in LAX terminals. The court ruled that the airport is not a public forum and therefore First Amendment rights don't apply. LAX officials claim that the solicitors pose a threat to public safety. Let's face it, the only reason this court ruled in favor of the airport is because a majority of us find solicitations annoying. So it's okay to suppress annoying speech if everyone agrees.

Don't get me wrong. I don't want to have to fight my way through tambourine tapping beggars to catch a flight either, but I might feel differently if I had a reason to demonstrate at LAX and I was arrested and fined for it. I, for one, am tired of seeing our freedoms being handed over to the government in the name of "security." So stand up and defend yourselves, and say something stupid.

The Tax Man Cometh … Just Not for Corporate America

Students scrape together 24 percent of their incomes to contribute to the billion dollar tax benefits given to Bank of America and General Electric.

KATE HOLHAUZER
STAFF WRITER

The old saying used to be that the two things that nobody could avoid were death and taxes. This may be true for normal individuals, but through accounting tricks and tax law loopholes, many corporations, including some of the largest in the United States have managed to avoid taxes, unfairly keeping much needed tax revenue from the U.S. Treasury.

When many Valley College students paid their taxes on April 15, they paid more in taxes than two of the largest companies in the US. They didn't just pay a larger percentage of taxes, but more taxes period. General Electric with pre-tax income of over $10 billion in 2009 and Bank of America with pre-tax income of $4.4 billion dollars paid absolutely no income taxes to Uncle Sam. In fact they both walked away with a tax benefit of over $1 billion each.

Forbes recently released a report showing what the top 25 corporations in America paid in federal income tax. Ford Motors stood out as one of the huge tax evaders, managing a lovely 2.4 percent tax rate, paying only $69 million on $3 billion in pre-tax income. Chevron made $18.5 billion and paid $200 million to Uncle Sam. Verizon paid only 10.5 percent of its $11.6 billion in pre-tax income to the IRS. And even though Hewlett Packard paid $1.7 billion in taxes on its $9.4 billion in pre-tax income, it's still only 18.6 percent of their pre-tax income.

The Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress released a report showing that two out of three United States corporations paid no federal income taxes between the years of 1998 and 2005. Tax economist Martin Sullivan estimates that U.S. corporations are managing to keep $28 billion a year out of the hands of the U.S. Treasury.

Major corporations manage this feat with accounting tricks to hide their earnings, largely by moving the money overseas to countries where the tax rate is much more favorable than here in the US. A January 2009 GAO report found that of the 100 largest U.S. corporations, 83 have subsidiaries in tax havens, and one single address in the Cayman Islands alone houses 18,857 corporations, very few of which have a physical presence in the islands.

Businesses that invest overseas can immediately deduct all the cost from their taxable income, just as they can with domestic investments. But unlike domestic investments, companies do not need to pay taxes on their overseas profits until they bring them back to the US. And if these firms continually reinvest their profits overseas, they never have to pay any U.S. taxes.

There is hope though. President Obama vowed to overhaul tax policies that reward companies for shifting U.S. jobs overseas and allow the wealthy to evade taxes using offshore accounts. Obama said the White House plan would save taxpayers $210 billion over the next decade. This proposal includes closing foreign tax credit loopholes, reforming overseas deferral rules, getting tough on overseas tax havens, as well as changing tax rules so that they encourage investment and innovation here at home rather than overseas.

VALLEY VIEW | 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PILL?

"It works ... if you use it right."

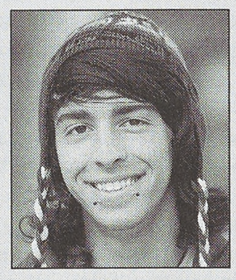
- NATASHA BARCIA
CRIMINAL LAW

"I'm good for it. I ask the girls to use it in case the condom pops."

- GEORGE TAYLOR
BROADCASTING

"If you don't want kids, then you shouldn't be having sex."

- GRACE CLIBOURN
NURSING



"I have no idea about that stuff. No idea whatsoever."

- CHRIS ARMSTRONG
BIOLOGY AND ART

"It's better to be on the birth control pill than to get an abortion."

- JEN ROMANGO
ENGINEERING

PHOTOS BY SAMUEL OKSNER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

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editor@lavalleystar.com
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www.lavalleystar.com.
Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

May 19 - May 25
Monday - Friday
TAE Food & Book Drive
Various locations – Library, Cafeteria, Writing Center, EOPS/CARE Tutoring Center, ASU Office, English Dept Conference Room
Contact: TAE
tae.lavc@gmail.com

May 19 - June 7
Monday - Thursday
"Student Show 2010" Exhibition
Sponsored by LAVC Art Department Conference
@ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6 - 9 p.m. (Art Gallery) Free
Contact: Art Gallery
(818) 778-5536

May
Wednesday, 19th
"Neighborhood Council Environmental Initiative" BREATHE LA Green Salon Series
Sponsored by BREATHE California of Los Angeles County, LAVC and Union Bank
@ 7 - 8:30 p.m. (Fireside Room)
RSVP recommended, Free
Contact: (323) 935-8050 x256

Friday, 21st
Greening Valley College Afternoon Green Tea Talk
Sponsored by LAVC Job Training, Professional Development, VTEA Grant & VCAP
@ 1:30 - 3 p.m. (Cafeteria Conference Room)
Contact: Roana Thornock
(818) 947-2455

Public Planetarium Show
Sponsored by the LAVC Astronomy Group
@ 8 - 10 p.m. (Planetarium)
Contact: David Falk
(818) 947-2864

Saturday, 22nd
"Moving Millions: Rethinking Immigration"
Lecture by Journalist Jeffrey Kaye
@ 10 a.m. - Noon (Fireside Room) Free event, parking available in Lot K
Contact: Deborah Kaye
(818) 947-2569

"I've Heard That Before: Music Appreciation Project – Musical Favorites" Concert
Sponsored by the Valley Symphony Orchestra
@ 8 p.m. (Main Stage Theater); Tickets - $25 general admission, $15 students/seniors, $10 LAVC students with ID
Contact: Music Department
(818) 947-2346

! THINK TRANSFER

May
Wednesday, 19th
CSU Northridge Rep
@ 4 - 6:45 p.m.
Antioch University Rep
@ 1 - 3 p.m. (Monarch Square)
Interview Skills Workshop
@ 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, 20th
Undecided Major/Career Workshop
@ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Friday, 21st
UCLA Bruin Buddy Day
@ 9 a.m. - Noon at UCLA

Monday, 24th
How to Transfer Workshop
@ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 25th
How to Transfer Workshop
@ 1 - 2 p.m.

All events held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless otherwise indicated.

For Sign-ups and further information
Call (818) 947-2646.

DUAL GUITARS, DUAL VIRTUOSITY

Classical guitar duo is subdued into performing an encore by enthusiastic Valley College audience.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College's Free Concert series presented a performance by a classical guitar duo on Wednesday, consisting of local virtuosos David Grimes and Valley faculty member, Gregory Newton, performing various classical compositions from the 20th century.

"Guitar virtuoso" is a term that is often used pertaining to blues or heavy metal guitar players such as B.B. King or Eddie Van Halen, and one that often overlooks classical guitarists playing the more traditional compositions that guitars were originally intended for.

The duo began their set with somewhat of a dissonant lullaby by Cuban guitarist and composer Leo Brouwer entitled "Musica Incidental Campesina." Despite the lack of any amplification or microphones, every intricate note played on the Spanish nylon-stringed guitars projected loudly throughout the Music Recital Room. The two guitarists conversed melodically by taking turns playing the elegant chord progressions and the complex leads, at times intertwining into one single voice.

"We've been playing together for 12 years and we have a similar temperament," said Newton. "We usually flip a coin to see which parts we play."

After a melodious composition by Mexican composer Julio César Oliva entitled "Caballo de Troya," which means Trojan Horse, the guitarists stepped away from their role as a duo to demonstrate their individual talents as soloists. Gregory Newton commandeered the stage to perform a piece, called "Moroccan Smile," by his friend composer Eric Foster, which required changing of the guitar's tuning before and even during the arrangement. David Grimes' turn came next as he performed "De Cadiz a la Habana" by Angel Barrios, not to be confused with the Paraguayan guitarist Augustin Barrios.

"We mostly play music from the 20th century," said Grimes. "And usually things written for two guitars and not so much other arrangements."

Newton and Grimes convened once again for two more arrangements before being subdued by applause into rendering Free Concert Wednesdays' first encore performance of the semester. In contrast to the mostly instrumental presentations sponsored by the Free Concert series, next Wednesday will feature vocal music from a variety of countries produced in part by the Valley foreign languages department.

RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR
SMOOTH PLAYING - Guitarist Gregory Newton turns in a spirited performance of "Paint the Wind" during last Wednesday's concert in the Music Recital Hall. Fellow musician David Grimes (right) soaks in Newton's expressive playing.

The Dead Weather Sail The "Sea of Cowards"

Jack White's latest on-going project releases their second album.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Jack White is a multi-talented, multi-instrumentalist, producer, actor, and entrepreneur whose birth into the public eye with the White Stripes seemed to have caused a domino effect of success for the former furniture upholsterer from Detroit.

After the quasi-permanent hiatus of the White Stripes, White has been overly active with projects such as the Raconteurs and the Dead Weather—a super group formed in Nashville in 2009 during an impromptu jam at White's Third Man Studio with vocalist Alison Mosshart from the Kills, Dean Fertita who served a short stint as Queens of the Stone Age guitarist, Raconteurs bassist Jack Lawrence, and White on drums.

The Dead Weather's debut album, "Horehound," entered Billboard's 200 Album Charts at number six in July of 2009 and despite rumors of a much anticipated solo album by the great Mr. White, the band surprised their fans with the recent release of their sophomore effort entitled "Sea of Cowards," a heavily distorted and sludgy blues-rock album sounding something like the Doors if it were lead by Robert Plant.

The first track entitled "Blue Blood Blues" is the typical kick in the face you'd expect from the intro song of a Jack White album (e.g. "Seven Nation Army" or "Icky Thump") complete with distortion-saturated melodies and soulful vocals. White certainly found the Yin to his vocal Yang in Mosshart as their two voices complement each other so well to the point where it's almost impossible to distinguish who is who.

The album's first single release entitled "Die by the Drop" is an energetic duet between White and Mosshart which epitomizes the Dead Weather's provocative sound and would have fit perfectly on the slightly more aggressive "Horehound" album.

Unfortunately, the final track "Old Mary" is somewhat of a low note to end the album on, bringing the energy down with a feeble rhythm splashed with minimal guitars and baby cries while White preaches to the Virgin Mary to "carry this burden now until the moment of your last breath."

Despite its minimal flaws, "Sea of Cowards" is a strong attempt to keep the spirit of rock 'n' roll alive, which has seemingly been Jack White's mission ever since he stepped into the spotlight. No matter what project he's doing, as long as Jack White is around, so will be rock 'n' roll.

Robin Hood Hits the Mark

Ridley Scott and Russell Crowe revive the Lincoln Green Legend.

JOSH SPENCE
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's easy to be dismissive of the latest Ridley Scott/Russell Crowe collaboration, "Robin Hood," given the unwarranted immediate comparisons as a "Gladiator" or "Braveheart" retread. What this film aims to do, and succeeds in trying, is taking away the smarm and charm of previous Robin Hood films to reveal the man behind the legend.

We meet Robin Longstride, an archer in the service of King Richard, the Lionheart coming back to England following the Crusades. Longstride leaves the army and begins, albeit unknowingly, his quest to be the man known for stealing from the rich and giving to the poor.

Writers Brian Helgeland, Ethan Reiff, and Cyrus Voris deserve major credit for penning a script that not only keeps the audience entertained for two plus hours but keeps true to the legend's lineage.

Robin Hood's genesis is ubiquitous in song and dates back as far as the 15th century. It has been said that Hood's origin was as either an archer, a soldier, or a yeoman, in addition to being the legendary thief. "Robin Hood" creates an interesting and believable origin story that is able to combine all three origins of the man from Nottingham into one super origin story.

Russell Crowe plays the eponymous character with relative aplomb considering he has some familiarity with characters looking to overthrow dictators. At times his accent does slip beyond England and into Ireland or Scotland, but there wouldn't be any other to play this role except Crowe. Crowe has enough intensity, charisma, and action credibility to make the legendary character believable.

Going with believability, Cate Blanchett gives much needed life to a one-dimensional Lady Marion. Always seen as a damsel in distress or just some sort of trophy for Robin to achieve, Marion was very much just background music. The transformation from ice princess to love interest has been done before, but considering her character was essentially a prop, this is considered a vast improvement.

The story is so good in fact that action is the weakest link in the film, which is odd considering that this is a Ridley Scott film. It's not that the action is bad, it's just that you've seen it before. The siege in France is similar to the opening scenes of "Gladiator" while Robin prepping his troops for battle lends itself to "Braveheart" with the biggest homage going to "Saving Private Ryan" when French U-boats storm the English coast. It's obvious Scott was more concerned about story than action and in this case the director made the right decision.

Van Nuys Farmers Market Welcomes You

The Van Nuys farmers market offers a diverse and welcoming shopping experience near Valley College.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

The Van Nuys farmers market located fairly close to campus in front of the Van Nuys library offers an enjoyable and warm atmosphere for anyone willing to get out and enjoy a day of food, shopping and networking every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The farmers market includes a variety of different vendors with merchandise such as clothes, jewelry, purses, raw honey, fresh fruit and kettle corn that lures you in with the delicious smell you discover from anywhere in the farmers market.

Manny Hernandez, manager of the Van Nuys farmers market, stated "This market offers the community an opportunity to get out and get some nice healthy products.

The food vendors can satisfy any specific craving you may have. Chinese and Korean barbecue, Salvadorian pupusas, Peruvian dishes, and the very popular flavor-filled huaraches from Taquerias Hermanos Guzman are some of the many options available at reasonable prices.

Employees from Mehta Family Healthcare have recently put up a stand offering a free and amazing 10-minute massage. The massage is a great treat for all the stressed, hard workers coming in and out of the buildings surrounding the farmers market.

Jennifer Vides, sunglasses vendor, stated, "We have only been doing this farmers market circuit for two months. We enjoy this one the most because of the diversity."

This market is a rewarding experience for shoppers and the vendors are very friendly people with remarkable stories who continue to be optimistic in this suffering economy.

"We get a lot of connections selling here. It's a community and in these hard times it's another way to make extra cash."

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CHINESE FOOD IN THE OLD WEST

The Frontier Wok in Burbank serves excellent Chinese food in a Western setting.

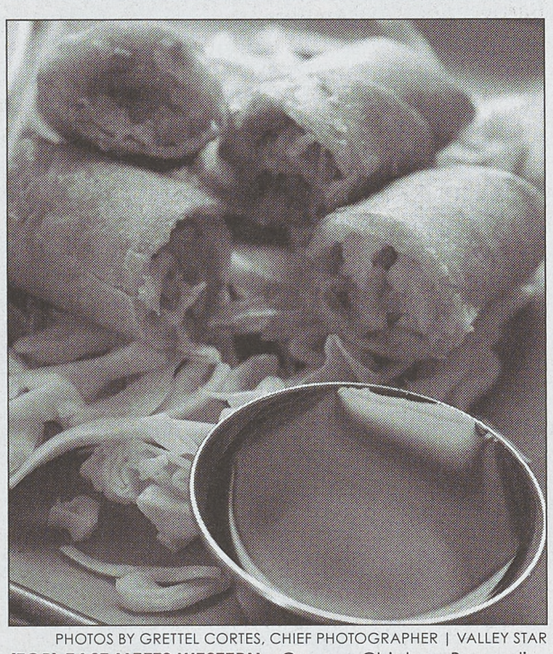
KATE HOLZHAUER
STAFF WRITER

Don't be fooled by the rustic décor. While Frontier Wok, at the corner of Hollywood Way and Edison in Burbank looks like a piece of a Western movie set, it serves surprisingly good Chinese food.

Once seated in a hastily cleaned booth and served a complementary bowl of hot and sour soup, it becomes clear that while cleanliness isn't a focus, quality of food is. While the food is not authentically Chinese in the way the Dim Sum palaces of the San Gabriel Valley or the hole-in-the-wall joints of Chinatown are, Frontier Wok does a good job serving up Americanized Chinese food quickly and without frills to hungry Burbank residents and visitors alike.

Like any restaurant, Frontier Wok does some dishes better than others. The best appetizer by far is the bao, traditional steamed buns filled with sweet, red barbecue pork and offset nicely by spicy mustard. As far as entrees go, the very American, very addictive orange chicken balances sweet and spicy while retaining the satisfying crunch of fried chicken. The cashew shrimp offers up tender, perfectly cooked shrimp in a flavorful brown sauce. Any of the fried rice options at Frontier Wok are good, though a little dry, something easily fixed with the quick addition of soy sauce or hot sauce at the table. Not so delicious, are the flavorful, but exceptionally dry barbecue pork and the soggy chow mein, which lacks the crisp quality that American diners have grown to expect.

The service at Frontier Wok is quick and friendly, making it a good place to go with kids, large groups, or when in a rush. Go twice, and you become a regular. Go three times, and consider yourself family. The waiters never seem to forget a face. While the prices are a little higher than some of the other Chinese restaurants in the area, the portions are large. It is worth noting that Frontier Wok has a second Burbank location on Olive Boulevard. Frontier Wok Too, the cleaner, blander cousin of Frontier Wok serves up the same delicious food but without the strange charm of a Chinese restaurant in the old west.



PHOTOS BY GRETTEL CORTES, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

(TOP) EAST MEETS WESTERN - Orange Chicken, Broccoli Chicken and Chow Mein are served daily.

(ABOVE) YUM YUM DIM SUM - Fluffy white and filled with deliciously roasted pork, bao buns make an excellent appetizer.

(BELOW) BARBECUE PORK - The sweet and tangy barbecue sauce more than makes up for the dry pork that is served.

EL PUEBLO HISTORIC MONUMENT

The spirit of Old Mexico is showcased in the heart of LA.

KELLY DAVIS
OPINION EDITOR

Los Angeles can be an extremely exciting city to live in or even just to visit. There is a tremendous amount of culture, a plethora of places to see and a slew of events to take part in. But unfortunately, LA is the second most expensive city in the United States.

For anyone on a tight budget, LA can be a nightmare of a city to try to take in. From the high price of parking to the outrageous ticket fees at museums and concerts, sometimes it seems like a day out in LA is enough to send someone straight to the poor house.

The good news is that there are actually some fantastic things to do that cost little to no money whatsoever. One in particular not only showcases a hidden jewel in LA, it also has the capability of plucking one right off the streets of Southern California and plopping them right down in the heart of Mexico. And it's not necessary to cross a border to do it.

Olvera Street and the surrounding Pueblo feature 27 historical buildings including the oldest church in LA, five museums and numerous shops and restaurants serving authentic traditional Mexican cuisine. The outdoor marketplace and surrounding buildings have an ambiance true to old Mexico, with street vendors offering handcrafted goods and the atmosphere alive with the colors and sounds of Mexico.

Outdoor entertainment thrives on the weekends when bolero and mariachi musicians stroll and Aztec Indians perform folkloric dance. Guided educational and historically accurate walking tours are offered free of charge Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Olvera Street is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and access is completely free to the public.

Public transportation is the best way to go as the Orange Line makes a stop at Valley College, for $1.25, offering an easy switch to the Red Line in North Hollywood, which for an additional $1.25 goes directly to Union Station. From there, it's just a matter of crossing the street and suddenly the atmosphere changes and one can find themself immersed in the spirit of Old Mexico.

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RUST IN PEACE

The overexposure and selling out of Iron Man 2 has robbed the film of its glory.

JOSH SPENCE

Considering all the foes Tony Stark has vanquished over the years, it's so sad to see the mighty Iron Man defeated by the biggest villain of all … the Whopper.

Quicker than the palladium melting at the core of Starks' metal heart, product placement and overexposure are the quickest ways to liquidate a movie franchise.

Audi, Dr. Pepper, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dell, and Oracle contributed over $3 million to have their products placed in the summer blockbuster. While the total of 53 seconds in the film isn't anything to scream bloody murder about, the countless hours of daily Iron Man-related commercials are. There's little to wonder why audiences' love for Iron Man has slightly rusted.

Granted, "Iron Man 2" had the seventh biggest opening night and fifth biggest opening weekend ever, but that feat is easily lost over the lukewarm reception the film has received given the tremendous overexposure.

As I was waiting in line Thursday night to see the film, I began wondering if the sub-prime mortgage I signed at the theater to afford the ticket was worth it. Prices aside, I wasn't alone. Eavesdropping on the random conversations in the hour-long wait, the general feeling among the masses was, "Is this worth it?" and "This better be good."

That's just the problem though. What should've been a major event for the pop culture mainstream kind of petered out due to non-stop promotion.

Think of it this way. In 2008, while a staple to any fan worth their weight in comic books but unknown to mainstream audiences, "Iron Man" is unleashed giving Robert Downey Jr. critical acclaim and Jon Favreau a reputation as a blockbuster film director. A week after the film's release, Paramount announced not only "Iron Man 2," but "Iron Man 3" slated for 2013. In 2009, a full year before the film's release, a preview for "Iron Man 2" was already viewable along with Downey making an appearance in "The Incredible Hulk."

Weeks before the release of the film, Burger King and Dr. Pepper commercials started appearing somehow associating themselves with the Stark Expo from the film as if buying their product gets you closer to Iron Man. Eating Burger King will not make you cool and not like Iron Man. The only superpower acquired from repeated Dr. Pepper-ings is diabetes. There have been Dungeons & Dragons less agonizing than this media blitz. While "Iron Man 2" is a terrific film that is more character study than explosive blockbuster, the commercial onslaught wins through attrition and takes the soul of the film for the price of a Buck Double. By the time the audience comes to see the film, it's more of a culmination than celebration.

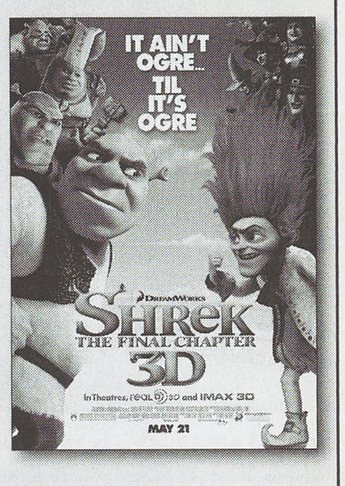
On the other side of the spectrum, there is the grimier, less commercial Batman franchise. Director Christopher Nolan completely brings Batman's roots to the forefront and keeps the audience enthralled with some of the best action since "Heat." There is always room for debate about which is the premier franchise, but what keeps Batman so fresh is that they always keep you guessing. Nolan has yet to confirm that there is a follow up to "The Dark Knight," let alone a five-second preview for the real preview inundating audiences or some cockamamie promotion for McBatty burgers.

Hopefully the Iron Man camp is taking notes, when it comes to the next movie and the nagging fanboys and bloggers looking for the newest tidbit: feed them garbage and keep them in the dark. Less is truly more.

E-mail Josh Spence at
co-editor@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



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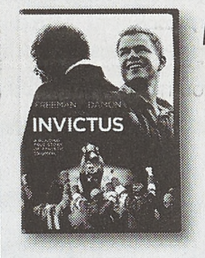
MIKE MYERS, EDDIE MURPHY, CAMERON DIAZ

TOP 5 BOX OFFICE:

- *IRON MAN 2: $52M+*
- *ROBIN HOOD: $36M+*
- *LETTERS TO JULIET: $13.5M+*
- *JUST WRIGHT: $8.2M+*
- *HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: $5M+*

MEDIA RELEASES

DVD



INVICTUS

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- *THE SPY NEXT DOOR*
- *VALENTINE'S DAY*

SONGS TOP DOWNLOADS

KATY PERRY

CALIFORNIA GURLS

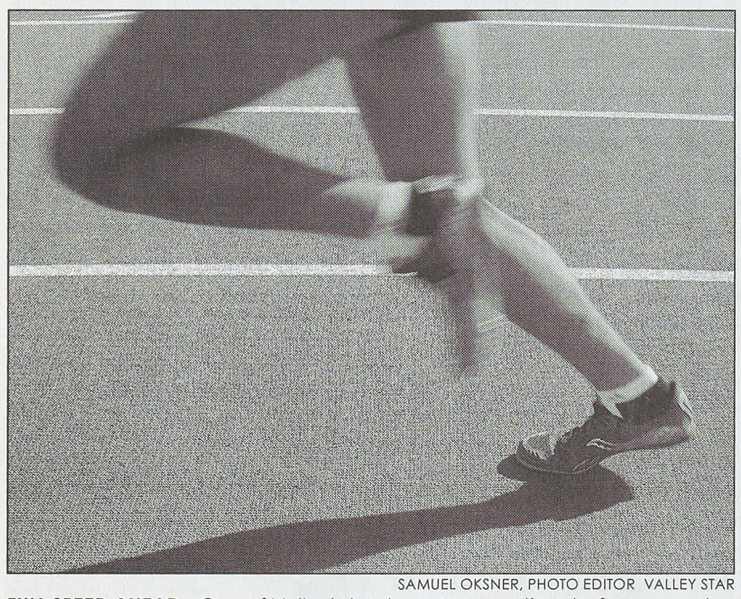
ALSO:

- USHER - *OMG*
- B.O.B - *AIRPLANES*
- EMINEM - *NOT AFRAID*

CONCERTS & THEATER

- *MASSIVE ATTACK: MAY 19-20 THE WILTERN*
- *CABARET: MAY 26 MACGOWEN HALL LITTLE THEATER*
- *NIGHTMARE ALLEY: MAY 19-23 GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE*
- *BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO: MAY 19-23 MARK TAPER FORUM*

MONARCHS HEAD TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



SAMUEL OKSNER, PHOTO EDITOR VALLEY STAR

FULL SPEED AHEAD - One of Valley's track runners practices before a meet.

A successful season for the track teams will end with the State Championship.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

This season the men's and women's track and field teams return from the Southern California Finals, breaking two new school records in field pole vault and 3,000-meter steeplechase. They also qualified to compete in their last meet at the State Championships.

So far both teams this season have shined through a steady set of competitions as they each earned several individual records.

In the WSC Inland meet on April 9, Kyle Ballew broke the school record in the men's pole vault with a height of 16'7.25". Also in the Southern California Prelims on May 8, Martha Alvarado came in 15th place with an honorable mention in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, setting a new school record with a time of 12:23.88.

During the prelims, Donte Gilmer and Lexi Rivas were announced as Athletes of the Week. Gilmer also competed in the men's 100 hurdles, earning second place with a time of 14.79. The time qualified him to compete in the State Finals along with Ballew.

In the Southern California Finals, last Saturday at Saddleback College the women's team scored three points, placing them 26 out of the 41 colleges that competed. The men's team earned eight points, placing them 23rd in overall standings.

"So-Cal Finals was great. Other than the fact that I felt like I was rushing before the race, it was great. I felt really good running threw the hurdles; I finished with a 14.7. I could've ran better than that if I wasn't hopping over the hurdles, but towards the end I picked it up," said Gilmer.

Lexi Rivas competed in the women's 4x400 meter relay with a score of 114-05, giving her sixth place. While on the men's team, Kyle Ballew placed fifth in men's pole vault scoring 16'1". Gilmer scored 14.75 in the men's 110-meter hurdles, placing fifth place, and was also mentioned as Athlete of the Week.

Ending their season, both Ballew and Gilmer qualified to compete in the State Championships this Friday and Saturday at Antelope Valley College. The meet will be a defining point in the team's season, and will determine their skill against the best in the state.

"I think its been an exciting season ... we had a pole vaulting record that's been up since 1975 that was broken," Valley Athletic Director Diedra Stark said. "The fact that three of our student athletes made it to finals in track, and its really hard to make it, is not an easy task and that's awesome"

Physical Wellness is All in The Head

Athletics not only help with the physical side, but also the mind, body, and soul

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Milk can do a body good, but exercise is good for the body and mind.

In 1948 the World Health Organization declared that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

In 2001 the U.S. Surgeon General reported that they recognize the "inextricably intertwined relationship between our mental health and our physical health and well-being." And according to the Surgeon General's official report, nearly 8 percent of the U.S. adult population suffers a disorder caused by a chemical imbalance, and more than 20 million Americans will suffer major depression in their lifetime. The report showed extensive research performed by the National Institute of Health that showed marked evidence that exercise and athletics could help with overall mental well-being and self esteem.

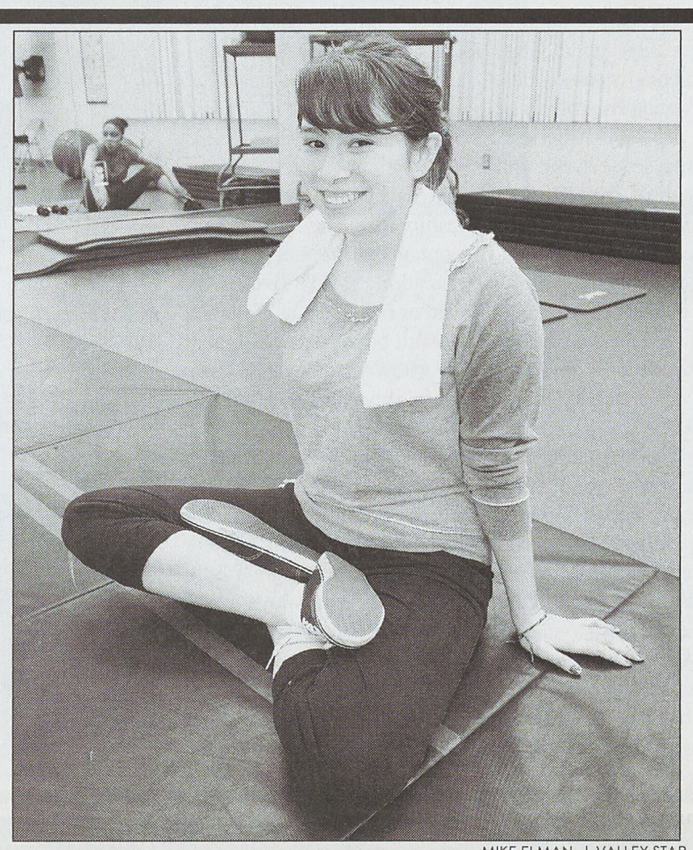
"Any behavior taken to the extreme is harmful. I think it's really important that coaches at any level prioritize at every level," said Valley Athletic Director Diedra Stark. "Teach them to be the best they can be and don't put winning first; don't push them to the breaking point. It's all about healthy priorities."

Since they have been physically and mentally conditioned to withstand extreme physical exertion, many athletes don't address or treat their mental health issues. This is a problem the National Mental Health Association, Pfizer Drug Company and the Women's Sports Foundation have all addressed recently and are working together to fix. They offer counseling and outreach programs throughout the NFL, NBA and several other sports organizations in order to help athletes in need.

"Sports have a lot to offer. They teach camaraderie, teamwork, sportsmanship, organization and time management," Stark said. "It's an amazing thing, but players learn about diversity and selflessness, your teammate is your teammate regardless of color."

When it comes to athletics and sports, mental health is undeniably important. Athletics can be an outlet to relieve stress, tension and worry, while helping to maintain and encourage self-esteem and a positive outlook. Organized sports can help encourage proper mental health by providing a good structure for mental welfare and by using sports psychology to break through mental barriers, work through emotional issues, and gain confidence.

"Athletics can help you out, they can give you self esteem and strength, self respect and respect for others," said Lucy Kuklina, a Valley psychology major and amateur boxer. "They show you what you can be."



MIKE ELMAN | VALLEY STAR

SMILE - Paloma Gonzalez exercises in the Valley College Fitness Center

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

U.S. VS. THE WORLD

With the World Cup just around the corner, filling positions, treating injuries, and preparing game plans will be the focus.

ROBERT R. KING
VALLEY STAR CONTRIBUTOR

In less than a month the 2010 World Cup will kick off in South Africa, marking the first time the world soccer championship tournament will be played on the African continent.

The United States will begin group play on June 12 against world power, England, before facing Slovenia on June 18 and Algeria June 23. The US hope to build on their success in last summer's Confederation's cup when they sent waves through the soccer world.

The Americans, usually a non-factor against the world's best teams, defeated Spain, the number one ranked team in the world at the time, in the semifinal only to fall to current world number one, Brazil, in the final.

Last week, U.S. Head Coach, Bob Bradley, named his preliminary 30-man roster and training camp is underway at Princeton University. The team has high expectations going into the cup, but questions litter the lineup.

The roster, which must be trimmed down to 23 by June 1, features every starter from the Confederations Cup final except for forward Charlie Davies who was severely injured in October in a car crash hours before the Americans' final World Cup qualifying match.

Davies, a key playmaker in last year's tournament, will be missed and his absence is leaving Bradley searching for replacements to pair up with 20-year-old front man Jozy Altidore.

However, Los Angeles Galaxy striker Edson Buddle, who leads the MLS in goals with nine through the first nine games, and Herculez Gomez, the first American player to lead the Mexican league in goals, both have a chance to make the roster in Davies' place.

Landon Donovan, 2009 MLS MVP, and stalwart Clint Dempsey will provide attacking prowess behind the strikers. The central midfield will feature Michael Bradley paired with either Ricardo Clark or Maurice Edu. The wide areas face some uncertainty due to injuries and an overall lack of depth.

Defense is also a concern for Bradley because his best central defender Oguchi Onyewu has not played a competitive game since October, after tearing his patellar tendon. Onyewu will likely be paired with Jay Demerit or team captain Carlos Bocanegra in the center. The wide areas of the defense are the major concern and could see any combination of six players make the roster, including Bocanegra.

The only position on the roster with no uncertainty is at goalkeeper where the only question is to see who will backup Tim Howard.

The Americans, who reached the quarterfinals in 2002, hope to equal that feat or better but will certainly face an uphill battle starting with their first game. However, expect a couple of role players to step up and help the team reach at least the second round. After that, anything can happen.

PREDICTION

The US finishes second in the group, behind England, to advance and play the winner of group D, likely to be Germany.

ROSTER PREDICTION

Goalkeeper – Howard (Everton, England), Brad Guzan (Aston Villa, England), Marcus Hanneman (Wolverhampton, England)

Defense – Onyewu (AC Milan, Italy), Bocanegra (Rennes, France), Demerit (Watford, England), Johnathan Spector (West Ham United, England), Steve Cherundolo (Hanover, Germany), Clarence Goodson (IK Start, Norway), Jonathan Bornstein (Chivas USA, MLS), Heath Pierce (FC Dallas, MLS)

Midfield – Donovan (L.A. Galaxy, MLS), Dempsey (Fulham, England), Bradley (Borussia Monchengladbach, Germany), Clark (Eintracht Frankfurt, German), Stuart Holden (Bolton, England), Edu (Rangers, Scotland), Benny Feilhaber (Aarhus, Denmark), Jose Torres (Pachuca, Mexico)

Forward – Altidore (Villareal, Spain), Buddle (L.A. Galaxy, MLS), Gomez (Puebla, Mexico), Brian Ching (Houston, MLS)

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NO LOVE LOST FOR GARCIA

Despite a losing season, the softball team played on their day off.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN| VALLEY STAR

STILL GOING STRONG - The Monarch ladies softball team stayed strong through the first half of the season but was unable to keep it together in conference.

Though the Monarchs ended their softball season sooner than hoped, there's no love lost, only lessons learned for the team that promises to get better with each game.

"We had a great team and a great group of people. Everyone wanted a different outcome of what we did this year, but we're success based, not outcome based," said Coach Frankie Garcia. "Sophomore transfers and freshmen coming back to play again, that's success."

With a final record of 21 wins, 18 losses and one tie, the Monarchs were unable to make it to the playoffs. Despite grueling months of practice, the Monarchs didn't do as well as hoped in the Western State Conference. They ended the conference with eight wins and nine losses, two of which were "mercy" losses.

Garcia pointed at Monarch infield and nodded at the girls practicing despite the seasons' end, "See that? They don't have to be here today, but they are. That's another sign of success."

The season began with a postponement and two losses, which may have set the pace for what was yet to come. Valley's fourth game, against Santa Ana College, ended in a tie and the fifth game a loss to Ventura College. However, a set of wins against Rio Hondo College showed that the Monarchs could be formidable opponent.

"We get better every time and we learn from the mistakes we make," said infielder Samantha Suarez.

After a series of wins and losses, the Monarchs had trouble keeping their footing on the field. A late season game against College of the Canyons was the first in a streak of six losses for the Monarchs who had no time to bounce back. Four games later, they ended their season with a win over Citrus College, who had defeated them in two previous games, including one the day before.

Though the Monarchs didn't walk away in first place or a playoff berth, the team did end with a win. Hopeful for next year and reveling in their success the team can be found practicing on Valley's softball diamond, even after the season is over.

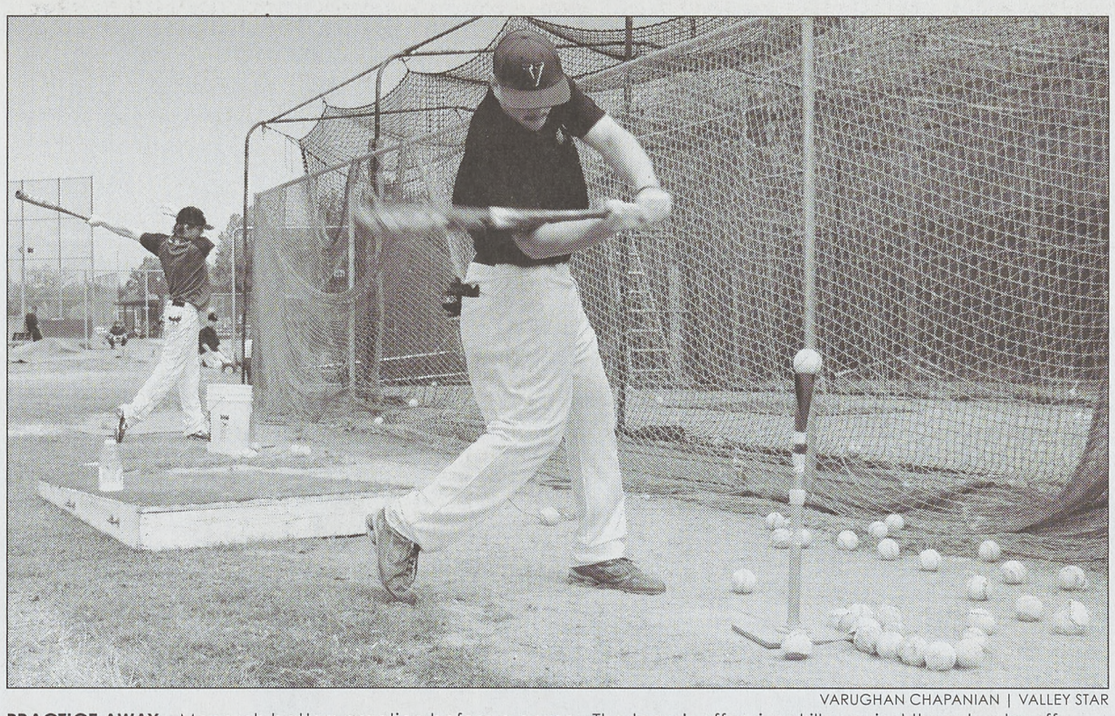
As Suarez hit a ball into the outfield, Garcia grinned, "We will get better every time."

A LOOK AT SEASON TRENDS

Winning Streak	Losing Streak
Feb. 19 - Mar. 9	***April 6 - April 13***
Pasadena 5-2 (W)	Canyons* 4-1 (L)
El Camino 14-7 (W)	Canyons* 6-1 (L)
Allan Hancock 11-3 (W)	Glendale* 4-2 (L)
Cuesta 7-3 (W)	East L.A. 3-2 (L)
Moorpark 3-2 (W)	Santa Barbara 7-2 (L)
Chaffey 6-4 (W)	Bakersfield* 8-6 (L)
L.A. Mission* 5-4 (W)	* Denotes Conference game

SEASON AT A GLANCE

Final Overall Record: 21-18-1 Final Conference Record: 8-9
Note: Valley College is a member of the Western State Conference.



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

PRACTICE AWAY - Monarch batters practice before a game. The team's offensive skills carried them to playoffs.

MOMENTUM CAN'T CARRY MONARCHS

After an impressive stretch of victories in conference, the Monarchs lose two straight against Rio Hondo.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

If you were to look up adversity in the dictionary, it would read, "The 2010 Monarch baseball season."

As the offense and defense struggled to find hits and close gaps, the 10 straight losses to open the Monarch season did not mark defeat, but confidence. The team captured first place in the Western State Conference, with a 14-7 record, winning eight of the last 10 games. Adversity, however, met them once more as Rio Hondo swept the team two out of three games in the first round of playoffs.

"This team overcame a major deficit when they pressed forward following a horrific preseason," Valley Sports Information Director Dale Beck said. "Instead of quitting and playing out their games, they pulled together, leaving other teams in their wake as they went on to post-season play."

The Monarchs ended regular season play with a 12-4 victory over Mission College and an 8-3 win over West L.A. The two victories guaranteed the squad an appearance in the playoffs and the first-place standing in the WSC.

The first of a three-game series in the opening round of the State Regionals, took place on May 7 against the Rio Hondo Roadrunners. The Monarchs' lack of pitching and defense attributed to the 15-5 loss handed over by the Roadrunners. The second game showed much of the same that led to a sudden halt of the momentum the Monarchs had gathered for so many weeks prior. Rio Hondo defeated Valley 11-2 in the second game.

"The team that beat us in post-season play was a tremendously powerful ball club with easy potential to reach the state finals," Beck said.

Though Valley baseball can do nothing more than look forward to next season, there are a few accomplishments they can still look back at. The WSC gave out its annual individual awards at the end of the season with three members of the Valley organization mentioned.

Valley pitcher and third baseman Josh Goosen-Brown, who had 33 hits and 21 RBIs, was named Southern Division Player of the Year. Valley pitcher Adair Robles, who had a 3.32 ERA in the regular season, was selected as Pitcher of the Year while Dave Mallas, Monarch head coach, was named Southern Division Coach of the Year.

"It was one of the most difficult seasons as a coach," Mallas said. "For the players to stick with the philosophy and turn it around ... I think it's one the program will remember for a long time."

THE OTHER HALF OF SPORTS LIFE

The spouses of Valley College coaches express what it's like being part of the sports programs.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

After living behind the scenes of Valley coaches, the spouses get to tell what athletic life is like from the other side.

"It's [sports] a fantastic part of our relationship, we go to all Valley's games together," said John Stark, Valley Athletic Director Diedra Stark's husband. "We've been in athletics all our lives."

John and Diedra Stark began their relationship because of sports. John used to watch Diedra play volleyball everyday and fell in love. Now married 37 years, he swears, "Athletics keep the family together."

"It's like I have 25 adopted kids every spring," laughed Ginger Mallas, wife of Valley Head Baseball Coach Dave Mallas.

Ginger and Dave Mallas have been married for close to nine years; they are both athletic and share their love of athletics with their two children, Tyson and Hailey.

While they don't push sports on their children the Mallas' do try and cultivate their children's passion for sports by involving them in their sports lives. Tyson enjoys being a batboy for his father's team when allowed, and Hailey can't wait to have a turn on the baseball field when she's old enough.

"The great part is that he has a lot of home games and gets to see his kids every night before bed. Dave has a great balance, too," said Ginger. "He doesn't bring his frustrations home."

Gayle has been married to Valley Head Football Coach Jim Fenwick for 36 years and after such a long time she has been relocated more than a few times. The Fenwicks have two sons together, ages 30 and 26, who had to experience moving around several times in their lives and, despite the challenges, grew up to be well adjusted adults.

"Now that they have grown, my sons said they really appreciate living in so many places. It gave them a chance to meet many different people and they still stay in contact with a lot of them. We've always looked for the positive in every move," said Gayle.

Gayle herself isn't competitive, but after 36 years of sitting on the bleachers she has learned to love football and has cultivated an appreciation for the fine art of competition.

"I understand what it is to be competitive. It's not in my nature, but it's interesting to watch, to see the interaction between coaches and players. I can appreciate it," Gayle said.

John, Ginger and Gayle are the pillars that hold up the greats of Valley athletics. They are an intricate part of the Valley Athletics department, even if it's from the background. No doubt their spouses have said it before, but thank you.

ANALYZE THIS

AWARDS FOR STEROIDS

Brian Cushing's recent win of AP Rookie of the Year award raises controversy.

LUCAS THOMPSON

When Manny Ramirez tested positive last season for using the banned substance, hCG, he was suspended for 50 games, mocked by fans and relieved of his section in the stands entitled "Mannywood." Houston Texans defensive lineman Brian Cushing, who also tested positive for hCG, on the other hand will be suspended four games and given an award.

The NFL officially announced Cushing's suspension on May 7 after he was announced, for the second season in a row, the AP defensive rookie of the year. Cushing slaughtered the competition, receiving 39 out of 50 AP votes for the 2009 regular season. After news broke of the second-year Texan's positive drug test, a decision was made to revote for the award, given the test results and suspension issued by the NFL. Though the margin of victory was less, Cushing still won with a total of 18 votes. Two voters, including Chris Mortensen who voted for Cushing on the first ballot, chose to abstain due to feeling uncomfortable with the process of the revote

Granted, hCG can be naturally produced in the human body, most commonly in pregnant women, males with signs of testicular cancer, and individuals with tumors. The fact that Cushing tested positive should be strong enough to exclude the 6-foot-3-inch, 236-pound prodigy out of USC from winning any awards.

It should be noted that the substance is commonly ingested or injected after anabolic cycles to mask other types of banned substances as well as rejuvenate natural testosterone levels in the body that many of the anabolic androgenic steroid cycles shut down. Maybe Cushing and Ramirez should have found something off the banned list to mask whatever performance enhancing drugs they were taking, that is allegedly of course, as both denied the allegations.

"The fact that how this got into my body and why the suspension would take place … that's why I was confused," Cushing said in a recent interview.

Whether Cushing actually injected or ingested the hormone on purpose or at all, will remain to be seen, and will still stand irrelevant. According to ESPN, it was later reported that the drug Ramirez had taken, which contained hCG, was from a sexual enhancing prescription drug.

The fact is I don't care if it's a multi-vitamin, if your taking it and it's in a pill or inject able form, maybe run it by the trainer, that is unless your hiding something.

Though the two NFL experts on toxicology disagreed at Cushing's hearing for a verdict on suspension, one saying, "There's no way a player can naturally produce this substance in their body," and the other claiming, "No, I do believe it can be produced naturally," the suspension will stand. Unfortunately this does not parallel the AP decision to revote and give him the award.

Case in point, until Cushing starts craving Ben and Jerry's and getting a little full around the midsection, the suspension and award should be revoked. Rules are rules. And testing positive for banned substances should not receive glory.

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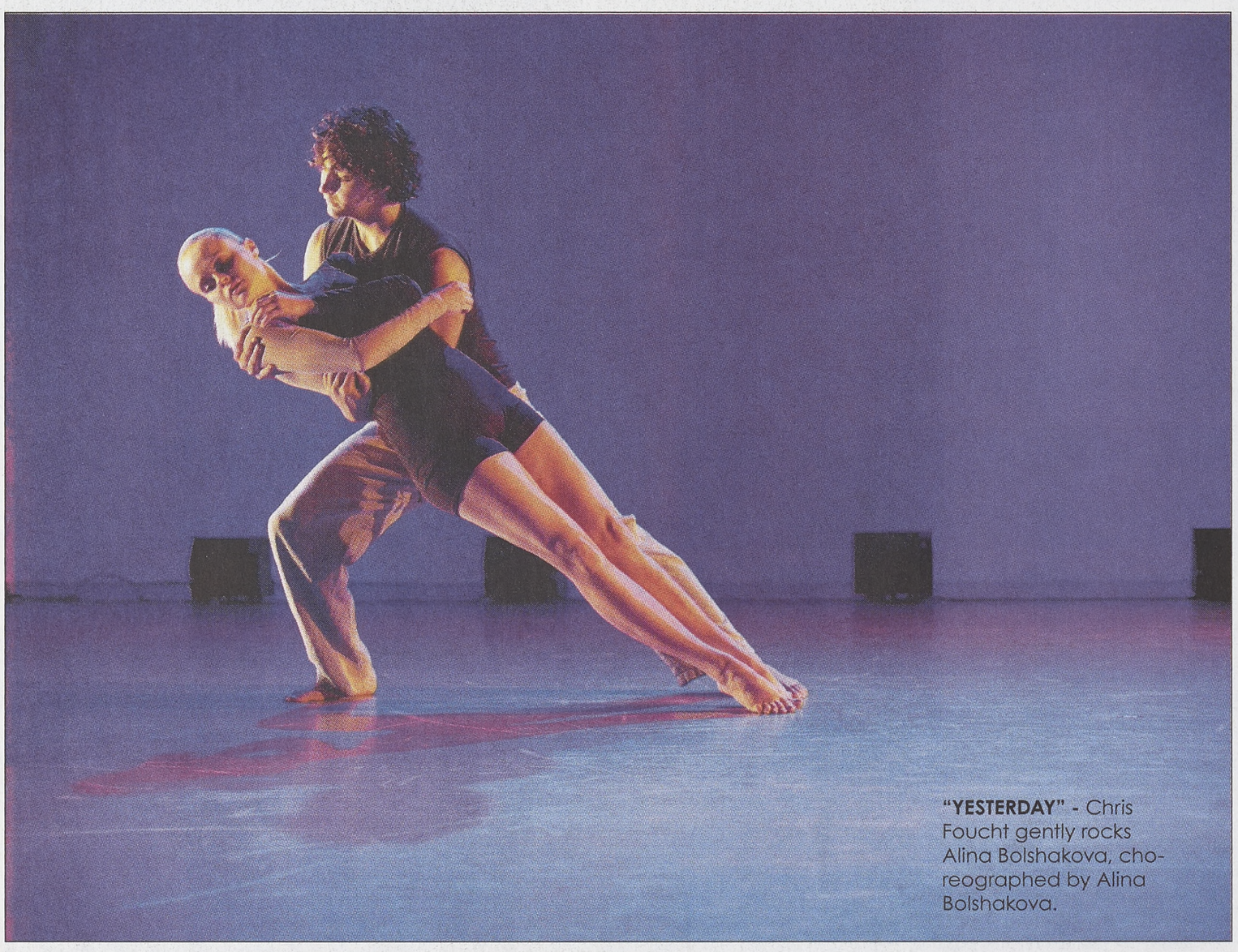
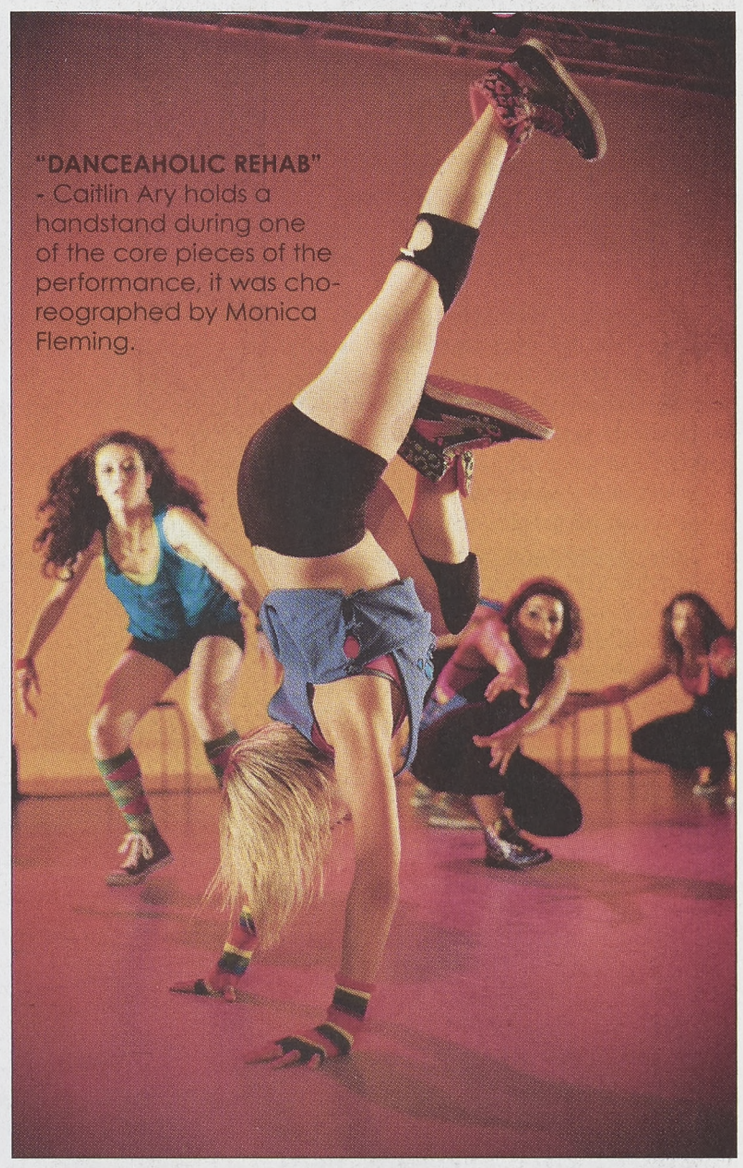
Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

DANCE ADDICTS ASSEMBLE DANCERS ANONYMOUS



"YESTERDAY" - Chris Foucht gently rocks Alina Bolshakova, choreographed by Alina Bolshakova.



"DANCEAHOLIC REHAB" - Caitlin Ary holds a handstand during one of the core pieces of the performance, it was choreographed by Monica Fleming.

Valley's dance program presents five shows comprised of various numbers in the North Gym.

STORY BY:
GUADALUPE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

PHOTOS BY:
SAMUEL OKSNER
PHOTO EDITOR

The stage was set in the North Gym dance studio where Valley College's dance program presented its production of "Dancers Anonymous." The eclectic production had five shows May 13-16 and was comprised of various dance numbers ranging from ballet to hip-hop, which were choreographed by faculty, guest and student choreographers.

"It was a lot of mental training," said dancer Chris Foucht. "Then you got to transfer all the mental training to your body. You need the precise kinetics when you dance so you won't injure yourself."

Dancers flew on and off stage for 12 different numbers with assorted moods and tempos that represented diverse cultures and styles including jazz, modern dance, contemporary ballet, African dance, Bollywood, and hip-hop.

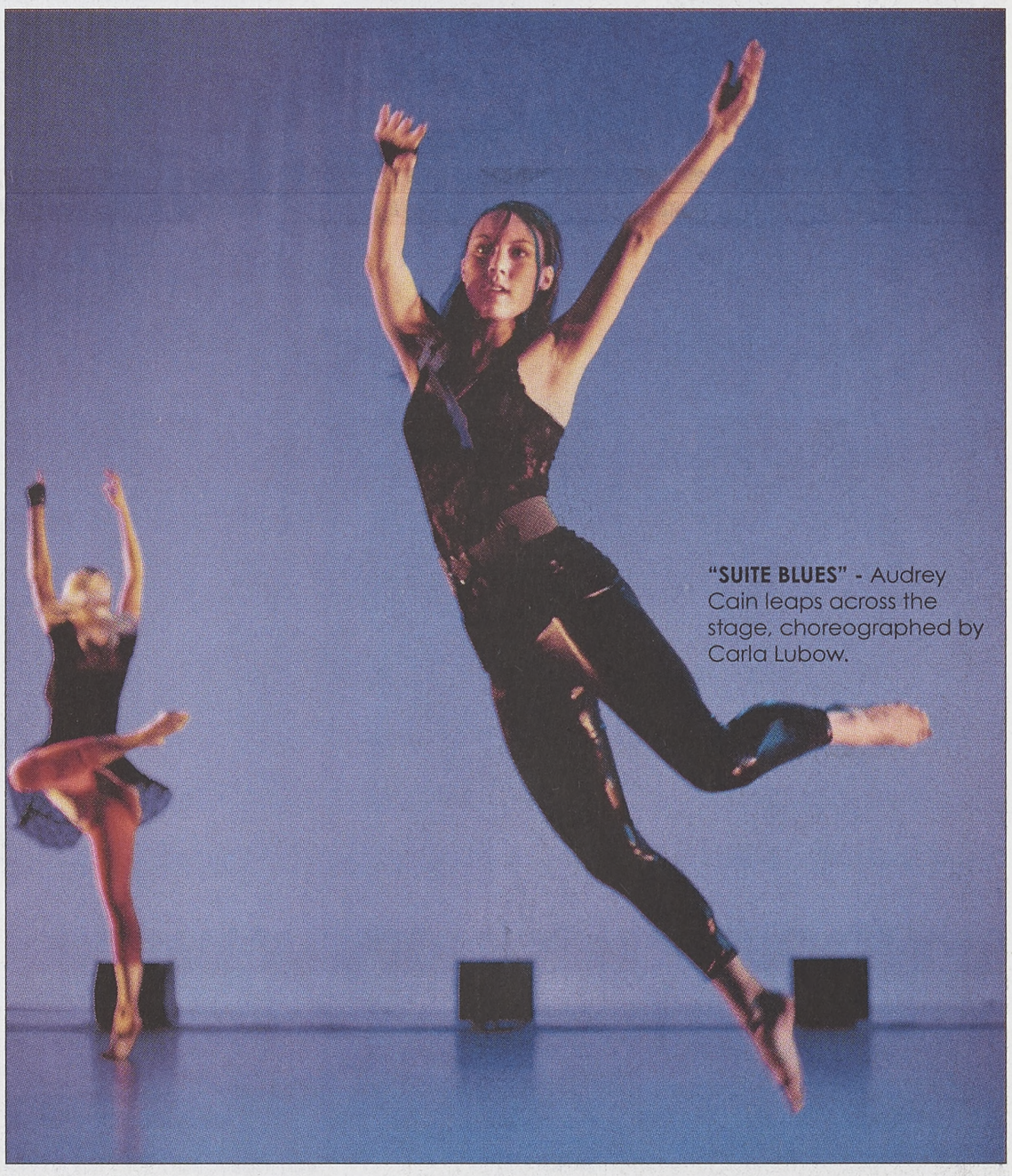
"I like to expose them (the dancers) to many different genres of dance for a greater understanding and appreciation of the art form," said producer and artistic director Geordie Wright, associate professor at Valley. She said they do not always have the opportunity to have ethnic dance, but try to include it whenever possible.

"The students want that type of dance in the program," Wright said.

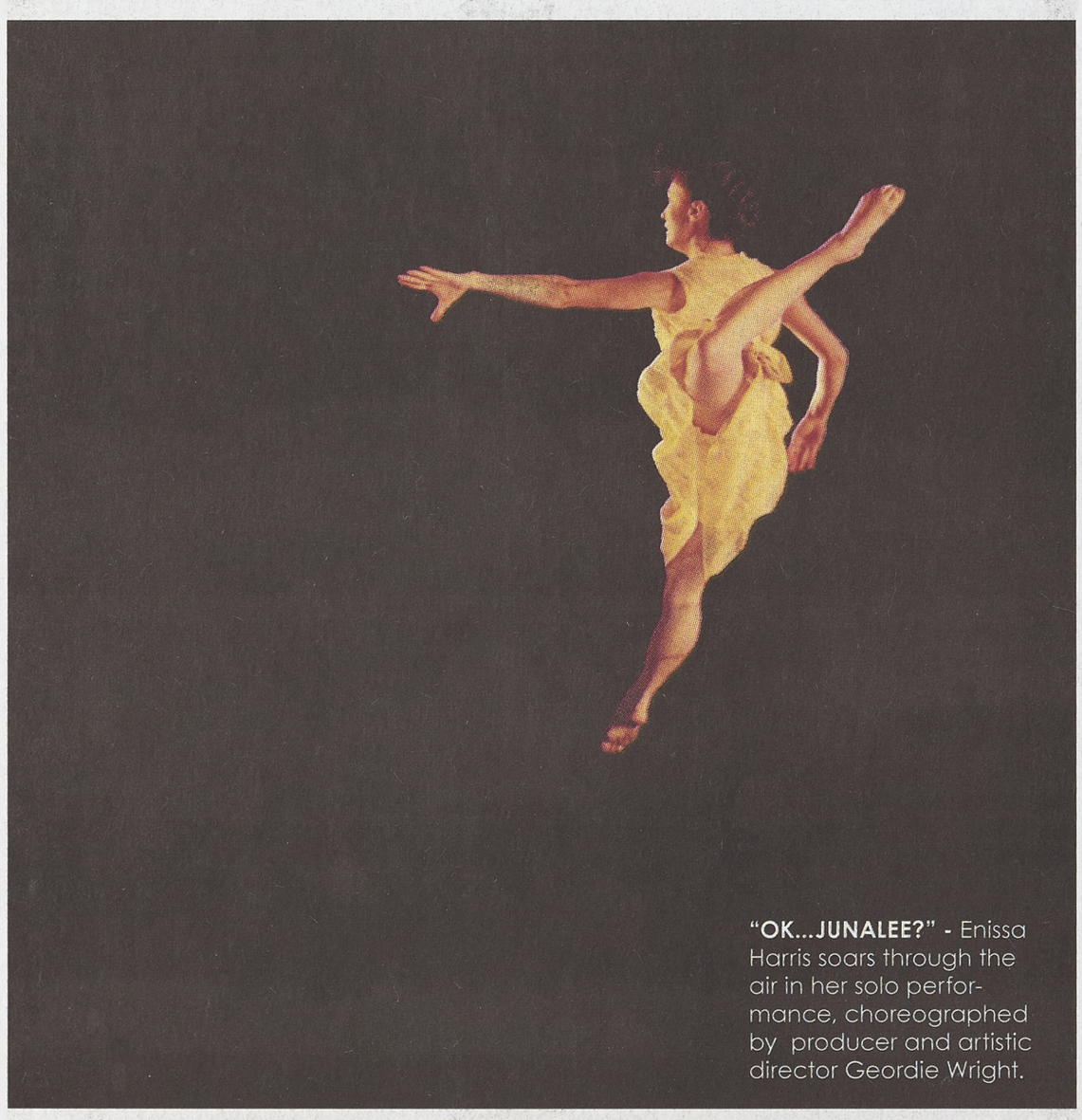
Preparation for the production started since the beginning of the spring semester in February. Since then, rehearsals were held at least once a week, sometimes having four-hour rehearsals on Sundays.

The performances were an expression of the addiction to dancing. The title of the production came about after many of the dancers concluded they were "dance addicts," according to Wright, after they started having "withdrawals" when they were not able to enroll in any dance classes this past winter session.

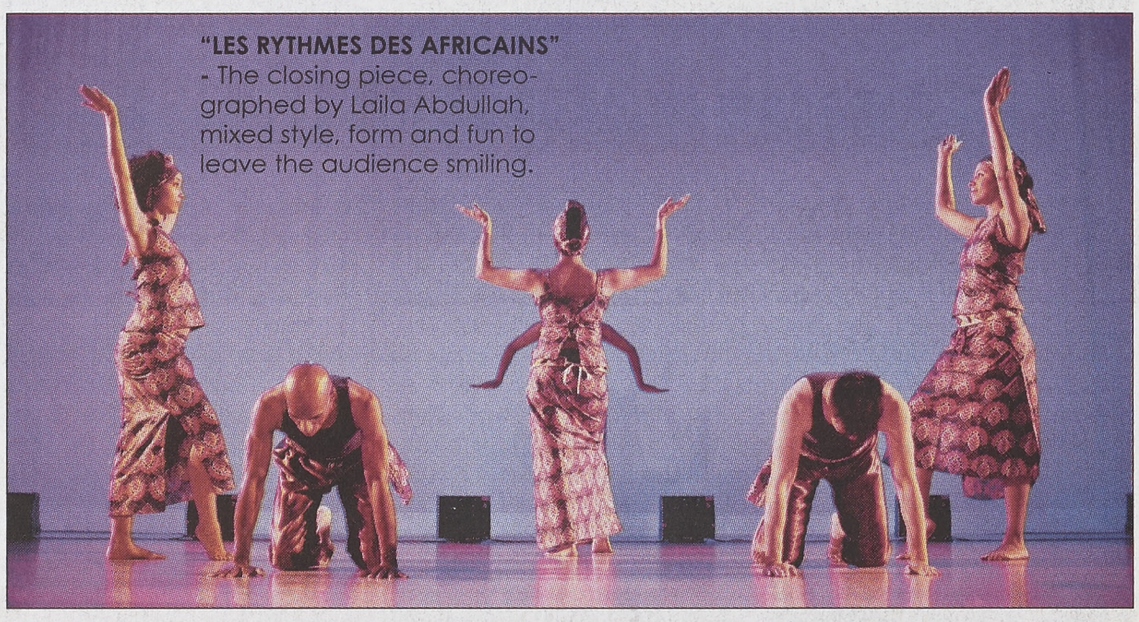
Wright said they worked very hard on the production but it was worth it to get the results they wanted. Lighting and adequate sound systems were rented for the production, setting and changing the sets for each number. Wright said, "We really try to do it at the professional level for the students."



"SUITE BLUES" - Audrey Cain leaps across the stage, choreographed by Carla Lubow.



"OK...JUNALEE?" - Enissa Harris soars through the air in her solo performance, choreographed by producer and artistic director Geordie Wright.



"LES RYTHMES DES AFRICAINS" - The closing piece, choreographed by Laila Abdullah, mixed style, form and fun to leave the audience smiling.